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ECEMBER, 1957 Topics for January, 1958

Memories of Summer Camp at Kwansei, Near Kyoto

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

Cover

Japanese Christian Endeavorers at the Summer Devotional Camp at Kwansei, near Kyoto, are pictured. Turn to page 4 to read a first-hand account by a Japanese youth. Christian Endeavor moves forward in Japan!

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The Voice of Christian Endeavor

DECEMBER • 1957

Volume 73, Number 4

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From the Executive Secretary . . .

WEAR IT! The Christian Endeavor monogram we mean. It was just seventy years ago, in 1887, that the CE monogram as we know it today was developed and adopted. Many suggestions were reviewed, several designs considered, before the one was selected that is still in use today. It has been seen and worn in every land around the world. It is your badge of office as a Christian Endeavorer. Wear it in a pin, a ring, a necklace—in some manner—but wear it!

WE REMEMBER! The Ernest R. Bryan Audio-Visual Section of the Educational Department has been activated. This is a fitting memorial to the late president of the International Society who served from 1949 until his sudden death on December 17, 1954. Ernest Bryan was the head of the motion picture department of the Photo Center of the United States Navy, in Washington, D. C. The first project of the Audio-Visual Section will be the development of a film strip or set of slides, accompanied by a disc or tape recording, on some basic subject which will be helpful to local Christian Endeavor societies. Appointed to the Audio-Visual Committee are Mrs. Ernest R. Bryan, Merritt L. Smith, and Educational Secretary Robert C. Ross, who will serve as chairman of the committee.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Start planning right now for a worthwhile observance of the 77th birthday of Christian Endeavor during Christian Endeavor Week, January 26 to February 2, 1958. Send to the International Society for your packet containing a manual, complete worship service, party plans, radio and television scripts, banquet suggestions, and a host of other helpful items. *Observe* Christian Endeavor's 77th birthday. *Dramatize* the place and purpose of youth in the program of the church and community. *Bring* more youth to a full relationship with Christ and the Church.

"SPEAK FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP!" It has been learned that in one midwestern city in the United States criminal offenses by young people under 21 have tripled in the last seven years while the city has grown by only one-third. Offenses by only those young people under the age of 15 have increased almost five times between 1949 and 1956. Christians, young and old, must with vigor "Speak for Christian Citizenship!" Enter Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest. The purpose of the contest is to challenge young people to be Christians and good citizens at the same time. Become eligible for one of the attractive Albert H. Diebold Awards. You may nominate another or you may nominate yourself. Write to Citizenship Director, International Society of Christian Endeavor, for details.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH! Kurt A. Gustafson, active Christian Endeavor enthusiast in Texas and a leader in the International Society's Youth Assembly, is a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis. Paul Bramlett, former president of the Tri-County District (Colorado) Christian Endeavor Union, of Seibert, Colorado, was killed recently in a tractor accident on his parents' Arkansas farm. Bill White, Newburg, Oregon, member of the 1957 Youth Assembly which met in Portland, Oregon, has been released from the hospital, having recovered from injuries received during a serious accident while bringing delegates to one of the sessions of the International Convention in Portland last summer. Stan Settles, Denver District (Colorado) Christian Endeavor president, is a sophomore at the Colorado School of Mines at Golden, where he is studying Chemical Engineering.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Each of us here at International headquarters wishes each of you out there a happy and a blessed Christmas. May the birthday of the King of Kings bring abundant new blessings to you. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" . . . Luke 2:11.

Harold Westerhoff

ARE THEY ESSENTIAL?

By JAMES MURDOCH
President, Scottish National Christian Endeavor Union

Every Endeavorer worthy of the name (whether he is an Expert or not) knows that there are "four essentials" of every Christian Endeavor Society. All right then—what are they? And are they really essential?

Is a Society which started over 75 years ago still relevant to the needs of Christian living people today? We believe it is, but only insofar as the "four essentials" are *essentially* part of the individual Society.

The Covenant

1. Our first essential is the ACTIVE MEMBER'S COVENANT. We could possibly double our membership if we scrapped it but in it lies our strength—not weakness. What does it demand from us?—

(a) A "saved" membership.
(b) Faith in God for daily strength.
(c) A promise to strive to seek to know God's will for my life, read the Bible every day, pray to God every day, support my own Church in every way and live like the Lord Jesus.
(d) Society responsibilities of an active member—
  (1) To faithfully perform the duties given to us.
  (2) Always present.
  (3) Always participating.
  (4) Always remembering the Consecration Meeting.

Let each Active member reading this go down the list and put a tick against those items which he is conscientiously fulfilling. The result will indicate the strength of your Christian life, for nothing is asked which is not the expected duty (no!—privilege) of any young Christian.

But, says someone, "Is it really essential to have in the clause about taking part in every meeting?" The experience of the past proves it to be worthwhile, because through this very distinctive feature of Christian Endeavor thousands have been led to speak the word for the Master which in time has opened out avenues of service never thought possible before.

The secret here is to prepare thoroughly and prayerfully, taking care to *make* time to follow the daily readings on the Topic. The "conscience" clause covers the occasions when it is not possible to take part but for the majority they will be the exception, not the rule.

Also in this connection it is most important that no one should monopolise the time available for Chain Prayer or discussion on the Topic. Contributions should be brief so as to give time for others. Older members particularly should remember this. It is a duty of the Prayer and Praise Committee to see that this part of the meeting goes without too many "awkward pauses" either by being ready to participate themselves or asking a question to stimulate others.

Some of the other clauses in the Covenant will be dealt with in what follows, but we need to remember that in taking this Covenant it is not just a promise to the Society but is something between us and God. We can only keep it in the strength of Him who will not fail to keep His covenant with us.

The Weekly Devotional Meeting

2. Our second essential is the WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL MEETING. There are two things here—

(a) We meet *every* week.
(b) It is a devotional meeting.

Are both of these things essential?

If any worthwhile training is to be carried out one night a week certainly isn't too often. Evening classes demand much more of the student and how many young people are content to have only one night a week at their favorite sport? Is training for service in the work of the Kingdom less important? We know it is NOT! And yet in almost every Society there are members who allow other things to come between them and the weekly meeting.

A most important part of the Covenant is the clause which states, "I will be present at every meeting." Well! Are you? Regularity of attendance on the part of the members is fundamental to the success of the Society. It should be a definite "date" in your diary every week and only something very exceptional should be permitted to keep you away. After all, if Jean stays off on some flimsy excuse and so does Jack . . . and Betty . . . and Bill, it will not be long till there is no meeting. Each month at the Consecration Meeting you promise to be there each week. Are you keeping to your promise?

Christian Endeavor was started as a young people's Prayer Meeting and the Chain Prayer session is an integral part of the Programme. I know of a Kirk Session in which the only elder whom the Minister dared ask to pray in public was one who had learned to do so in the Christian Endeavor Society. Are you taking the opportunity presented in your Society each week?

But, of course, prayer is only part (albeit a most important part) of the weekly meeting. The Prayer and Praise Committee must see that the Programme is well planned—no last minute rush to choose the hymns—and that a true devotional spirit is engendered. We are come together to worship God, not to have a jolly time together. Nevertheless, we will find that the "fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." As we have said elsewhere, "Christian Endeavor is a training ground, not a playground, though Endeavorers can play as well as pray."

A searching question to ask of any Society is, "What impression would a stranger get from the meeting held in your hall last week?" Would he come away convinced that Christian Endeavor was a live, spiritual force in the Church? If not, how much is that due to the fact that *you* are not playing *your* part?

The Monthly Consecration Meeting

3. Our third essential is—THE MONTHLY CONSECRATION MEETING. There are those who ask — "Why every month?" And others who say, "Once a month is not often enough—we need a daily rededication." A well-known evangelist said to me on one occasion that the emphasis made by the Movement on Consecration was the point he didn't like about Christian Endeavor. He felt we made too much of our own efforts to become sanctified whereas in his view only the Lord could do that for us.

What then are we aiming at in holding this special service each month? Simply this —that we might be brought face to face with our Christian responsibilities at regular intervals. Most of our members are young in the faith and need to be reminded of all that is involved in being a disciple of the Master. The "discipline of discipleship," as someone has put it, is necessary for us all and the Consecration Meeting can give us fresh understanding and quickening on living out the Christian life.

It also provides a good opportunity to bring the Minister or Superintendent regularly in touch with the Society by asking him to take the Topic.

(Please turn to Page 18, Col. 1)

Around the world Christian Endeavorers are emphasizing the basic fundamentals of the movement. At the recent convention in Portland, Oregon, International Society President Earle W. Gates told the delegates that "never have we known greater need for the basic principles of Christian Endeavor." He re-echoed the words of the founder, Dr. Francis E. Clark, in his keynote address at the 1925 convention in the city of Portland. "In his last convention the founder thus gave us the key to success —fidelity to our basic ideals," Dr. Gates stressed. In the article on "Are They Essential?" which is reprinted here from THE SCOTTISH ENDEAVOURER, the newly-elected president of the Scottish National Union also calls for a return to the essentials. Mr. Murdoch visited in the United States in 1951, including a trip to International Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio.

My Memory of Summer Devotional Camp

"I have fought the good fight . . . ."

By Moriichi Ichikawa
First Grade, Isahaya High School

I was recommended by Rev. Hayashida for the Devotional Camp and dreamed the day of Grace. But before few days of the day suddenly my father who was silent about that until now opposed. Moreover, my mother and sister began to stand against me.

The night of the last day for travelling I asked permission to my father for the first time, but he said exactly, "No"! At that time I was beginning to confuse.

Next day's afternoon, my friend Mr. Yamaguchi who is unknown about my situation, came to accompany and my father said to him the same word of the last night. I was very miserable as feel too hot to stay on.

"I will go to Rev. Hayashida's for the time being," murmured he to me in whisper and returned alone. It was on 24, when we start.

Evening when I sat at the desk in silence, friend Yamaguichi came to say goodbye.

"You go and do for yourself and also for me," said I and smiled.

"I and Rev. Hayashida pray for you, but . . ." he answered and left. Just at the time I was inspired and rang in my head his last words, "I and Rev. Hayashida pray for you!"

"Is that so!" I talked to myself. I ran and stood in front of my father. I was in ecstasies. I asked permission to him. Afterwards I waited in silence his answer.

For a time it was cold and silent and he said at last, "Bother! Well! You do as you will!"

His answer was very brief. First of all I rushed into Rev. Hayashida's. He enjoyed with me taking hand. It was about p.m. 8:00, I hurried to station, Yamaguchi waited and enjoyed also and said, "I convinced of your coming."

When I ascended the path to the camp site, I felt the foresight of significance of this camp. At that time I was tired with train and got car-sick, moreover, I had no umbrella in rain. Feeling dizzy sometimes, I ascended in one's umbrella. When I sit down in feeling sick, our unknown brethren came near to me with care. And I accompanied with them somehow. I thanked very much. Some one may think that is natural thing to be not worth to thank and is of no account. But it is for me the very introspection that this is my way to walk by faith.

For three days I studied the logic of "Devotion" and now confronted unexpectedly to its practice as my very attempt. It was a great flood-disaster over Isahaya, my country.

I left the camp site with sending a few brethren and arrived at my country after p.m. 10:00. The city was still in the darkness. I strained my eyes widely for its very difference.

For a time I stood still blankly. I suppressed a tear and thought, "I must do and work something. The city of death! The Spirit of Christian Endeavorers! It is for the sake of this flood! I must do and work with its Spirit!"

I and Yamaguchi, my friend, looked at each other without a word and stepped down a foot into the city strength arm in arm.

Japanese high school Endeavorers attend Devotional Camp in Ky near Fukuoka.

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Celebrate–in '58

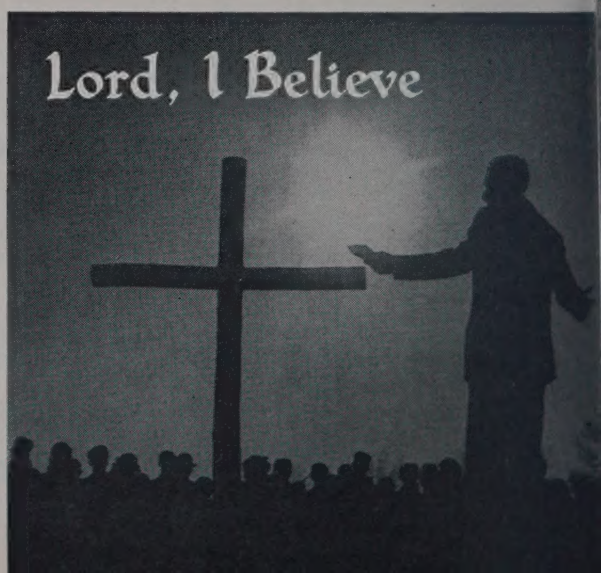
When Christian Endeavorers celebrate the anniversary of the movement on February 2, 1958, there will be 77 candles on the cake.

These mark 77 years of winning and training youth for Christ and the Church, since that eventful day in 1881 when Francis E. Clark formed the first Christian Endeavor society in Portland, Maine.

Endeavorers will observe Christian Endeavor Week from January 26 through February 2. Theme for this year is "Lord, I Believe."

Many activities will mark the week. On Sunday, January 26, youth will participate in local church services in recognition of Denominational Sunday. During the week there will be special services, radio and television programs, parties, and banquets. On Christian Endeavor Sunday, February 2, the birthday will be honored by societies and unions.

For detailed suggestions for programs and publicity, secure a Christian Endeavor Week Packet. Packed full of ideas, it's a real bargain at only 50c. Order from your state or provincial union office or write to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.



Echoes of Portland

eady now—a complete audio- ual report of the recent Interna- al Christian Endeavor Conven- in Portland, egon. Pre- ed by Chris- A. Tirre, d secretary the Kentucky ristian En- vor Union, hoes of Port- d" includes re than 100 lor slides, ng with a tape recording which s for approximately one-half ur. The voices of major conven- n speakers, along with music by convention choir, the Youth for rist choir, and the Northwest ristian College quartet, are in- ded in the tape recording. This is available to societies and un- s on a loan basis without charge. ite to International Society.

Letters... Dear Mr. Editor:

Next February local newspaper editors in the United States and Canada will be receiving letters from young people on SPEAK FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP!

This is part of Christian Endeavor's 1958 Citizenship Contest, when young people will actually mail a copy of their entry to local editors. This will give youth a practical opportunity to witness to their beliefs on Christian citizenship.

To enter the contest, young people under 25 years of age must be nominated before February 3, 1958. Nominations may be made by an adult, by another young person, or by the entrant himself.

The Albert H. Diebold Awards for the winners will total $1,000 plus two free trips to Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Convocation in New York City July 4-6, 1958. Duplicate awards will be given in two divisions, one for youth in high school or below and one for those out of high school.

In judging, the "Letters" will count for 60% of the score, with a Christian Service Record the basis for 40%.

State and provincial first place winners compete for regional honors. Regional winners are eligible for the International judging. By April 25 the final winners will be selected and announced.

Certificates of Recognition and special award emblems will be presented to all winners. The top winners in each division will receive $200 in cash plus a trip to New York City. Second award will be $100 in cash, and third prize $50. The next six runners-up in the International finals in each division will receive awards of $25 each.

Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Convocation will be held in New York City July 4-6, 1958, according to announcement by Robert C. Ross, citizenship director. This significant weekend will focus the attention of young people upon the responsibility they have to their community and nation and challenge them to be Christian citizens.

The convocation fee of $30 includes meals and hotel accommodations. Program details will be announced soon.

nkfurt Committee Plans for World's Convention

l committee for World's Convention meets in Christian Endeavor House in Frankfurt. Robert , chairman, is fifth from right.

rankfurt Endeavorers are making plans ntertain 12,000 delegates, from all parts Germany and from around the world, n the World's Christian Endeavor Con- tion is held in their city next summer.

cheduled for July 23-27, 1958, the 13th rld's Christian Endeavor Convention will t in the spacious Festival Hall, Frank- , Germany. Theme for the sessions is rist, the Light of the World."

obert Jödt, president of the Frankfurt ristian Endeavor Federation, is heading the local committee, which is now meet- regularly.

rogram high lights include inspiring mes- es by Christian leaders known through- the world, conference sessions, open air etings, communion service, and roll call nations with presentation of flags.

North American Endeavorers may register now for this great convention. Registered delegates who are not able to attend will receive a copy of the convention program and badge, along with a report of activities. The fee is $5.

In connection with the convention, the International Society is planning a thirty-day Christian Endeavor Fellowship Tour of Europe. Leaving New York City on July 12 by air, the tour party will visit England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany. After attending the World's Convention, the party will continue the thrill-packed journey, going to Switzerland, Italy, the Italian-French Riviera, and France. The group will fly back to the United States, arriving in New York City on August 11. For tour details contact Harold E. Westerhoff, tour manager, at the International Society of Christian Endeavor in Columbus, Ohio.

NOMINATION FORM

Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest

NOTE: You may be nominated by an adult, by another young person, or by yourself.

Valid only if postmarked no later than February 3, 1958.

Citizenship Director
International Society of Christian Endeavor
1221 East Broad Street
Columbus 16, Ohio

I hereby nominate the following young person for participation in Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest. Please send the forms for the "Letter" and the Service Record to the nominee.

Nominee's Name _____
(Please Print)

Number and Street _____

City, Zone, State _____

I agree to encourage my nominee to complete the "Letter" and the Service Record.

_____
(Name of Person Making Nomination)

_____
(Number and Street of Person Making Nomination)

_____
(City, Zone, State of Person Making Nomination)

Youth Forum

During the sessions of the recent International Christian Endeavor Convention in Portland, Oregon, several members of the Youth Assembly acted as "inquiring reporters." They asked convention delegates questions about Christian Endeavor and about witnessing to the Christian faith. Here is the second series of questions and answers.

We Asked . . . .

How should our Christian faith be discussed with our non-Christian friends? How can Christian young people witness to their faith in school?

Young People Answered . . . .

It shouldn't be in a spirit of argument, but rather that they by our witness might know what Christ means to us. We should give them Biblical statements rather than theories of our own. We should not give them the impression that we are better than they.—*Margaret Taylor, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.*

With tact and Scripture. Get acquainted with them and get their respect and trust. The best thing is to know what you believe before you start discussing it with someone else.—*Carolyn Arnold, Dallas, Texas.*

For one thing they can join the Christian clubs in their school. They can turn down invitations to bad parties. Most important, they can show it in the way they act and talk.—*Johnetta Smith, Roseburg, Oregon.*

When discussing our faith we should try to show that we have that extra Christian "something" and try to tell how proud we are of it. We should try to be understanding with them, as Christ was. It would be impossible to name each way in which we can witness for Christ in high school. We can only pray every day and every minute for the strength to do everything in a Christ-like way. — *Sunny Lu Peer, Columbus, New Mexico.*

We can witness our faith in high school in the best and most obvious way and that is by living it.—*Marilyn Martin, Roseburg, Oregon.*

As a Christian talks with a non-Christian of his faith, the discussion should be natural. He should not be apologetic about what he believes. A Christian's faith should be strong, steadfast, and unwavering. It is not easy to be a witness for Christ in high school. Our first and most important step, though, is to set a good example as being Christian in everything we do and say. Whenever the opening arises, the Lord should be glorified and we should speak easily about our convictions and love for Christ.—*Carol E. Gates, Derby, New York.*

I would answer the questions as sincerely as I could and use as many scriptural references as possible. At every possible opportunity tell of the Saviour and discuss Him with them. Use Christian principles in every-day life.—*Loren Griswold, Houston, Texas.*

By living for Christ. That, in my opinion, is the strongest testimony. — *Arthur Neumarkel, Bakersfield, California*

I try to make them see that I have something better than they do. Youth can witness by using their faith to help them in their studies and everything else.—*Johnetta Jenkins, Chicago, Illinois.*

They must first show a slight interest in being a Christian. We could then tell them of Christ in such a way that they don't feel they are being pushed. There are many ways, but most important is the way we act. People watch our actions in relation to our teachers. Christians are with the teachers, not against them. Christians don't cheat. When they don't others are influenced not to. — *Marilyn Noble, Columbus, New Mexico.*

1958 Posters on Displ Soon—Union Chairm Acclaimed for Efforts

Christian Endeavor's attractive, four 1958 Outdoor Posters are on their w local advertising companies. Soon their ing design will appear on poster throughout the United States and Ca

The message of the posters—"Live . . . For Christ and the Church"—will lenge the thinking of thousands of pe This is part of the year-round evan program of Christian Endeavor and wi dergird its efforts to win and train

State and provincial efforts have be rected by union chairmen. The succ the 1958 Outdoor Poster Program is large measure to the fine work of leaders:

Alabama	Mrs. Grad
California	Herbert E. Q
Colorado	Howard C
Illinois	Judith Ann
Indiana	Gordon
Kansas	Rev. Allen Bo
Kentucky	Wilhelmina Rei
Maryland	Herbert B
Michigan	Pearl Bette J.
Minnesota	Mrs. Gladys Ro
Missouri	Leonora
New Jersey	Elsie King
New York	Mildred A. L. Chr
North Carolina	Arwood Tho
Ohio	Mrs. James B
Oregon	Glenda M
Pennsylvania	Miriam G.
Texas	Jay
Virginia	Howard Su
West Virginia	George All
Wisconsin	Della Te
Ontario	Matthew D

A Christmas Gift . . .

Christian Endeavor Edition

New Testament with Psalms

Contains pages with Christian Endeavor pledge, principles and motto. King James Version.

Bound in genuine leather, fine grain, flexible overlapping covers, round corners, red under gold edges, ribbon marker, individually boxed, CE emblem stamped in genuine gold on front cover. Size 4¼x2⅝ inches.

Price $2.25

Send your order today

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

1221 East Broad Street **Columbus 16, Ohio**

NEWS
from around the world

'HDAY RALLIES IN SCOTLAND—
ıg Christian Endeavor Week 1958 spe-
allies are planned in several centers.
e will help prepare for the British Con-
on which is scheduled for Glasgow in

ers of India Executive at recent meeting in
ada.

CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST

u can work for a renewed emphasis on
stmas for Christ. Help make Christmas
cred holiday — not an "alcoholiday."
ctive "Christmas for Christ" stamps are
able from The National Temperance
ue, Inc., 131 Independence Avenue,
Washington 3, D.C., at a cost of $1.00
4 sheets, $2.00 for 12 sheets. Their
ose is to emphasize that Christmas is
holy birthday of the Prince of Peace,
not a day of secular celebration. Why
order a supply today and use them on
stmas cards and letters.

is what tour party members will see in
" says Harold E. Westerhoff as he shows
slides of Europe during recent Executive
mittee sessions in Columbus, Ohio. Pictured
to right) are Dr. Gene Stone, Mrs. Ernest R.
n, Dr. Earle W. Gates, Allan J. Blair, Harold
Vesterhoff, Merritt L. Smith, Mrs. Carl Herr-
n, Robert C. Ross, and Julian Moran. Mr.
erhoff, manager for the 1958 European tour,
many pictures as he journeyed over the
this summer.

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WE EXTEND SYMPATHY — To Harold and James Westerhoff on the sudden death of their father, Jacob J. Westerhoff, on November 4. Harold is executive secretary of International Society, and James is president of the New Jersey Union. In lieu of flowers gifts were sent to Christian Endeavor headquarters for a memorial fund. Dr. Daniel A. Poling, president of the World's Union, participated in the funeral service. Mrs. Jacob J. Westerhoff is at home at 953 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, New Jersey. Both Mr. and Mrs. Westerhoff are well-known to Endeavorers throughout the country and in Canada.

BRITISH UNION STATISTICS—The secretarial report for 1957 shows 3,217 societies with a membership of 62,286.

Alabama's "King" and "Queen" — Sidney Crane and Sylvia Chapman — attended the Fall Open Board Meeting of the Southern Region at Roanoke, Virginia. The trip was awarded to them as part of the honors received in being named outstanding Endeavorers in Alabama.

WE MOURN—The death on September 16 of Clare Van Malsen, Jr., of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Clare has been very active in both the local and state union work, and was well known as a song leader. Our sincere sympathy to his family and to his many Christian Endeavor friends.

BOOKS FOR CEYLON — Rev. James S. Mather, Christian Endeavor leader who has traveled extensively in the United States and Canada, is in need of books on Christian beliefs, the Bible, the task of the Church, etc., to supplement his small library of about 75 books which he lends to ministers and lay leaders. Anyone wishing to give books for this work should send them to Rev. James S. Mather, Chairman, The Methodist Church in Ceylon, Colombo 3, Ceylon. Here is a good use for those books which are now standing idle on your shelves.

CONVENTION FUND—Irish Endeavorers have set up a special fund to help them finance the journey to the 13th World's Christian Endeavor Convention next summer. Savings are sent regularly to headquarters in Belfast.

"Mr. Texas" attends Indiana Convention! Leaders at the recent sessions included (left to right) Julian Moran, vice-president of International Society; Redd Harper, "Mr. Texas"; Jack Steeg, outstanding Christian layman of Indianapolis; and Roy T. Combs, auditor of the state of Indiana. Mr. Harper starred in two of Billy Graham's movies—"Mr. Texas" and "Oiltown U.S.A."

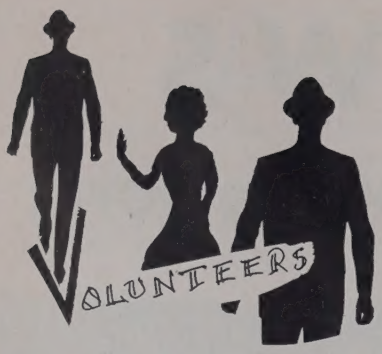
ADELAIDE IN '58—The first vacation national convention in Australia is scheduled for January 8-16. Dr. Daniel A. Poling, World's Union President, will speak at convention sessions.

New State Union Presidents

Doris Jean Teague
North Carolina

Cecil Murray
Massachusetts

Philadelphia Juniors of West Branch union enjoy games at annual convention. Theme was "Around the Clock with Christ."



VOLUNTARY service for a good cause has often seemed to represent the most gratifying experience a free man or woman may enjoy. The term itself comes from the Latin concept of *choosing* or *willing* some action.

The volunteer is a free person, at work in something he made up his mind to do. He has answered a call or a challenge, not an order. He has accepted labor that may be "beyond the call of duty."

The religious volunteer is very often found in Protestant Christian action. The volunteer in church work is also characteristic of the free society of North America.

In the earlier, simpler forms of America, persons and groups chose to volunteer for numerous activities that are now performed by "public welfare" or by hiring work done. The building of a new barn by a voluntary force of neighbors was matched, in the village over the hill, by voluntary child care, nursing, and practical aid to the needy. One of my father's friends, years old, was placed in a satisfactory job because a half-dozen of his fellow church members joined as volunteers to find a position for him.

Young Adult units may well study and discuss how voluntary action in the church and in the community may be expanded, strengthened, and wisely guided.

We deal here with winning, training, and utilizing volunteers in the local church particularly, but your discussion can also involve community service as well.

The Christian Endeavor movement has been notably volunteer-minded. The society tries to recruit and prepare children and young people for informed, practiced, and well-rounded service in and through the Christian Church. Most of its members, while active society members, will accomplish results which aid the church in its mission for Christ. A large number will graduate into voluntary work, as in church school teaching, missions work promotion, recreational leadership, counseling, finance, and many other organized forms of laymen's activities. Some will progress to full-time Christian work, in which they will realize how to direct and supervise volunteers—those whose initial training for Christian action matched their own.

With Young Adults

By Bert H. Davis

To assure a continuing flow of volunteers into church work, let us recommend at the outset that Christian Endeavor groups be encouraged, officially recognized, and well utilized in the churches of today.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE voluntary church work, to be shared in by those who lack this preparation as well as those who profited by it?

1. Let all forms of training be well promoted, open to all comers, varied in character and appeal, frequently restudied to determine results.

Training classes should embrace more than (a) preparing for church membership in general and (b) preparing church school teachers for their tasks. As young people grow toward young adulthood, their interests and abilities should be observed. Individuals should be tried out in some forms of church activity and in church organizations. Short training sessions may be planned in ushering, which can be made an important function in welcoming strangers and those who attend infrequently or cannot hear well.

The important task of calling on newcomers and other prospective members may well begin with group meetings on the purposes and best methods for such work. So, too, those who will call on members of the congregation to receive financial pledges need more than a "pep" rally and the customary advice on "how to answer the questions some people will ask." The Lord's business is too often assigned to those who are told something about *how* to do the work but do not share in a process of learning the *why* of the matter and the way this work relates to the welfare and achievements of church work as a whole.

2. Provide adequate printed or processed helps dealing with most forms of church work. Few persons take or retain notes. Some will not read the notes you provide. But be sure those who want guidance are getting it, in a form that may be referred to from time to time.

3. At least once a year, offer means by which volunteers may enroll or re-enroll for the forms of training and of voluntary activities in which they believe they would benefit and serve best. And provide for experienced counsel by other volunteers at the time these enrollments are invited.

4. Encourage those who have enlisted in voluntary service to recommend their friends and acquaintances for various types of church work. Some of the most successful church schools secure a majority of their new teachers by this means.

5. Utilize newer workers as understudies for those now supervising or leading in the church and church school and church organizations.

6. Promote rotation in church positions and in the membership of church boards.

7. Provide a program of fellowship events for those who serve in the church. "All work and no play" cannot hold volunteers!

8. Air the problems for experienced workers and newer ones as a group. Working together on a problem builds team spirit and adds to the resources newcomers will devote to their future efforts.

9. Recognize voluntary work, in a special service and as a part of the church's publicity.

10. If a volunteer seems to lose interest or zeal, seek to discover why this occurred.

JUNIOR CE MEETINGS
The Quarterly for Junio

Topics for JANUARY

Jan. 5. We Walk with God.
Psa

Jan. 12. We Praise God.
Psalm

Jan. 19. We Trust God.
Psal

Jan. 26. Christian Endeavor Believes.
Mark 9:20-25; Acts 16:2

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR
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Seven Pillars for Better Christian Endeavor Meetings

By Robert C. Ross, Educational Secretary, International Society of Christian Endeavor

"How can we have better Christian En-avor meetings?" "Why can't we get more s out?" "How can we get discussion go-?" "Why is everything so dead?"

Have you ever asked any of these ques-ns? Sure you have, unless yours is a very usual Christian Endeavor society. Maybe 've discovered some of the answers; ybe you still need help. Here are ideas ich might be just what you're looking for. This article is indebted to James DeForest rch and his excellent little book, *Success-C.E. Prayer-meetings.* The basic outline from that book.

What are some of the answers to these cere and searching questions for better ristian Endeavor meetings? To get these swers, each society must have a sound d wholesome basic policy. Each society ist have these "Seven Pillars": purpose, paration, pep, participation, prayer, pro-ctiveness, and progress.

rpose

Do you have a reason for your Christian deavor meetings? What is your basic pur-se? Every society needs honestly to ask elf these questions in relation to its entire gram and its scope of meetings for an tire year. Then each weekly leader needs nestly to ask himself these questions in ation to his particular meeting.

Your purpose is your goal. If you have no al, you can't possibly know where you're ing—either in your society or in your e meeting. Right here is the answer to e problems of many societies; maybe yours one of them. Sit down and write out in ack and white a list of your purposes as society. The next time you lead a meet-g, sit down when you first begin to epare and write out the one main pur-se of your meeting. Be specific. Be inted. Avoid any vague or generalized nguage. Know absolutely where you're ing.

reparation

After you know where you're going, the xt "pillar" is to work to get there. This volves preparation. This means no last inute rushing around! Hits close to home, esn't it? How many times have you aited until Saturday night, or even Sun-y afternoon, to prepare your meeting for nday night? And then you wonder why erything seems dead!

Quit kidding yourself. Successful ristian Endeavor means preparation — hether it's for a devotional meeting, a siness meeting, a party, a missionary oject, or an attendance campaign. First, st, and always, you can't get away from e "pillar" of preparation.

ep

Pep is another way of saying action, tality, and enthusiasm. Nothing is more adening than a leader who looks as ough he has a double case of the Asian u. He leans on the table or pulpit and ones on and on—no signs of life what-er.

Enthusiasm is not a light or frivolous ing. It stems from a deep love for Jesus rist. It is motivated by a zeal to share at love with others. Get excited about your church and your Christian Endeavor group! And here's an added dividend: enthusiasm is contagious.

Participation

Don't try to do it all yourself. Even though you may be the undiscovered answer to the needs of Hollywood, just remember that other people have talents too. But even more important, others need to participate in your meeting for the blessing which they will receive.

Dr. Francis E. Clark, the founder of Christian Endeavor, had this "pillar" very much in mind. He talked often of the principle of every member taking part in every meeting aside from singing. Participation by everyone present should be one of your goals.

Prayer

Do you take prayer for granted? It's one of the main "pillars" of anything you do in Christian Endeavor. For your meeting, here are three specific areas where prayer must be in evidence. First, pray as you prepare. Ask the Lord's guidance and blessing as you write out your specific goal, as you study your material, as you decide who will be asked to do this thing or that. Ask God to fill you with zeal and enthusiasm. Ask Him to give you new victories in the lives of your Endeavorers.

Second, plan a pre-prayer service. This is five, ten, or fifteen minutes immediately preceding your meeting. The purpose is to pray definitely for the meeting to follow. Besides yourself, the pre-prayer service includes the main participants in your meeting, your counselors, the top officers of your society—and anyone else who is really concerned about praying for the meeting.

The third area of prayer is in the meeting itself. This should be obvious, but remember the value of variety—yes, even in your approach to prayer. From week to week, vary from sentence prayers to directed prayer, or a single prayer, or a group of prayers by Endeavorers selected ahead of time.

Productiveness

This means results and not just words. A lot of words pass back and forth in every meeting you lead, but ask yourself if all those words are leading to results and productiveness.

Here's where your purpose comes back into the picture. You can't possibly measure productiveness unless your goal is clearly in mind. Look at an example. If your purpose for your particular meeting is to discover and understand the real meaning of prayer, has your meeting actually produced that discovery and understanding?

Don't meet just for the sake of meeting. That in itself is enough to kill your society. Constantly strive to produce spiritual results in the lives of your Endeavorers.

Progress

The last "pillar" for better Christian Endeavor meetings is progress — something better tonight than a week ago—something better tonight than a *year* ago. Are you making progress? Are your society meetings better now than they used to be? Make an honest evaluation. Check every detail with a year ago—attendance, participation, enthusiasm, productiveness, leadership, variety, room attractiveness. The list is almost endless.

Again the "pillar" of purpose is important, especially the over-all purposes of your society as a whole. Are you making progress in leading others to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; in bringing them into the life of the church; in sustaining and training them for the service of Christ and His cause; and in releasing them through all channels of human activity in the service of God and man? These are the great purposes of Christian Endeavor as listed in the folder, *What Is Christian Endeavor?* Remember the importance of writing out these purposes for yourself—putting them in your own words.

Know where you're going, and then be sure you get there!

Christian Endeavor visitors from Trinidad were entertained recently in Berlin, Germany, by local Endeavorers. Willy Lehmann (seated at right) is president of the Berlin Christian Endeavor Federation. A special series of meetings in Berlin is being planned in connection with the World's Convention in Germany in 1958.

Who Do You Think You Are?

No. 1 in a Series: "Look in the Mirror!"

Psalm 144:3,4; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 15

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years) *JANUARY*

*Comments by Dr. W. W. McKinney**

Promoting the Meeting

This is the first of three topics built around the theme, "Look in the Mirror." To advertise and stimulate interest, place a number of mirrors in prominent places in your church building with slogans such as "What Do You See?"; "Take a Good Look"; "Too Bad, Isn't It?"

As this is the opening meeting of the new year, organize a telephone team to call each member. Ask each person to look over his attendance record for the past year. Urge him to come to the society meeting to take a good look at himself and to report how he thinks he looks to other people.

Suggested Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude: *Jesus Calls Us*
Hymn: *Love Divine*
Scripture: I Corinthians 15
Consecration Roll Call
Hymn: *With Thy Spirit Fill Me*
Sentence Prayers
Announcements and Offering
Hymn: *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*
Leader's Message
Group Discussion
Consecration Hymn: *I Would Be True*
Benediction

Leader's Introduction of Topic

A novel way to begin the meeting might be for the leader to bring a tape recorder. Let a number of the young people speak into the microphone and then play back their voices. Those who thus hear themselves for the first time will be surprised and perhaps disappointed in the sound of their own voices. The recorder enables us to hear ourselves as others hear us.

As we begin another year we shall attempt to hold a spiritual mirror before us to help us see ourselves as others see us and as we really are. The purpose of our meeting is not to embarrass one another by pointing out publicly any personal weaknesses that may make us unpopular or unreliable.

Nor is the aim of our discussion achieved by confessions to one another of personal imperfections. Confession should be made privately to God Himself and directly to the person we have wronged. Someone has well said, "Every person knows that of himself which he dare not (and should not) reveal to his closest friend."

"Who do you think you are, anyway?" How often we have heard that question asked in an angry, threatening voice as we have selfishly or arrogantly over-asserted ourselves. The implication is that individually we are not the "big shot" we are trying to be. Ask one of the group to read Psalm 144:3,4. The psalmist would remove from us our personal conceit. He would not have us cherish any illusions of personal

* Dr. McKinney is minister of First Presbyterian Church, Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

AIM OF TOPIC

1. To know yourself better.
2. To gain the right attitude toward yourself.
3. To seek God's help in self-improvement.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What is hindering your spiritual growth?

Does adversity or prosperity require the greater spiritual resources?

What decision has given you the greatest happiness?

What habits of study have you found most helpful?

What promise of God has brought the greatest blessing into your life?

purity or individual perfection in God's sight. We are not supermen or angels in disguise.

Now ask someone else to read Psalm 8:3-6. It is a contrasting picture showing the greatness of humanity. We are the climax of God's creation. We are more than a happy combination of chemical elements soon to be mingled with the dust. God loves each of us. He has equipped us for His service. Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, emphasized the divinely implanted greatness in each person. Paul (I Corinthians 15) reminds us we are created, redeemed, strengthened, and eternally rewarded by God. Do you see that kind of self as you look in the spiritual mirror while on your knees before God in humble, sincere prayer?

Your Most Valuable Asset

As you look in the mirror, what do you honestly believe is your most valuable asset? Money, personality, education, popularity, and family prestige are all valuable and help to make you what you are and what you may achieve. Develop the conviction that character is a person's most noble asset and the one most easily attainable. We cherish the friend who can be trusted, the man who adheres to a higher standard of ethics in his profession, the worker who does his job honestly and the politician who cannot be bribed.

Humility, not egotism; kindness, not arrogance; sympathy, not indifference; a thankful, not a grumbling attitude; cheerfulness, instead of complaint; parental love rather than material advantages: all these are traits of character which merit our admiration and our imitation. Character

Daily Devotional Readings

M., Dec. 30. Your Insignificance. Ecclesiastes 1:2-4.
T., Dec. 31. Your Glory. I Corinthians 6:2, 3.
W., Jan. 1. Your Frailty. Psalm 103:13-16.
T., Jan. 2. Your Dominion. Genesis 1:26-28.
F., Jan. 3. Your Potentiality. John 1:10-13.
S., Jan. 4. Your Value. John 3:16-18.
Sun., Jan. 5. Topic—Who Do You Think You Are? Psalm 144:3, 4; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 15.

values of that type add greatly to hum happiness and are attainable by rich poor.

Make a list of the traits of character believe are of greatest value for perso friendship and to society as a whole. W did Jesus mean to emphasize when asked: "What doth it profit a man if gain the whole world and lose his o soul?" Our rugged individualism and emphasis on the profit motive as an centive to personal effort have given distorted views of a man's worth.

Jesus taught that we are of value to e other in proportion to the service we ren "If any man would be great among y let him be the servant of all." How d that apply to your life?

Group Discussion

Ask different individuals to comm briefly on the following:

You are your brother's keeper and help Since we all are brothers in God's sight, one has the right to claim for himself spec privileges or to exploit other people racial groups. Apply this to your sch and industrial life.

You are what you will to be. Tempe ment is usually three-fourths temper a one-fourth selfishness. Weaknesses can developed into strengths. None of us is slave of his heritage or environment.

You are young people with two tale not one or ten talents. Most commun and church work is done by ordinary peo with two talents. What hinders you in development of your talents? Moses a Amos also offered excuses to God.

You are what God enables you to Working alone we are useless. The H Spirit is available for all who, like Isai volunteer, "Here am I, Lord, use me."

You are the product of your parents' lo your teachers' fidelity, your heredity, a your environment. Don't boast. Be thank and useful.

Closing Consecration

Bring the discussion period to a close asking the group to bow in silent pray Look now in the mirror which God ho before you.

Do you see a self that has improved d ing 1957 in religious knowledge, charact and service to God and man?

Do you see where you can improve yo self in 1958?

Do you see why you should improv Silently ask God to help you.

Practical Application

Now is the time to improve yourse Habits are forming. Tonight you have j 10,080 fewer minutes of time than you h at this hour a week ago. And, believe or not, you have 524,162 fewer minut of time than you had before you on t day last year.

Yes, it is later than you think. But n too late to change for the better your hab and attitudes. God will help you when y are honest both with yourself and with Hi

Who Do You Think You Are?

No. 1 in a Series: "Look in the Mirror!"

Psalm 144:3,4; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 15

ıtermediate (12-14 Years) *JANUARY 5*

*Comments by Mrs. Aldis L. Webb**

·omoting the Meeting

Since this topic and the following two ɔ closely related, the leaders might meet th the advisor to discuss the purpose of three lessons. The topic, lettered on irrors, will make striking posters. Display many mirrors as you can in the meeting om, some at eye level. Send post cards every member reminding them of the nsecration Roll Call.

ıggested Program Outline

e-Prayer Service
elude: *I Would Be True*
atement concerning lesson series
ymn: *There's a New Day Dawning* (substitute word *Year* for *Day*)
ader: Look in the Mirror
ripture: The Bible is the only Book that tells us *who* we are, *why* we are here, and *where* we are going. Let us listen carefully as these Scriptures are read by different people.
iscussion
ntence Prayers
oem: *I Looked at Myself*

ne day I looked at myself, at the self that Christ can see;
saw the person I am today, and the one I ought to be.
saw how little I really pray, how little I really do;
saw the influence of my life, how little of it was true!
saw the bundle of faults and fears I ought to lay on the shelf;
had given a little bit to God, but I hadn't given myself.
came from seeing myself with my mind made up to be
he sort of a person Christ can use, with a heart that He can see.

—Anonymous

onsecration Roll Call (responding with a simple statement of purpose in light of the topic discussion)
nnouncements and Offering
ymn: *More Like the Master*
enediction: Psalm 19:14

ook in the Mirror

Men in business take an inventory of eir assets and liabilities at the beginning each new year, and on the basis of hat they find they decide what steps are eeded to make improvement in the future. hristians need to follow the same proedure. Our characters are continually anging. We are not the same persons day that we were last week or last year. ave we changed for the worse or for the etter? At this first meeting of the new ear let us each take a personal inventory our lives. To do this, let us *look in the irror* to see what it tells us. Let us look id see, in the words of our topic, *"Who do ou think you are?"*

As you look in the mirror, what do you e? If you are fortunate enough to have a

Mrs. Aldis L. Webb is a public school teacher in Tillamook, Oregon. Her husband is minister of First Christian Church.

OUR AIMS

1. To help each member of the group get a true and honest picture of himself.
2. To help each member see the value that Christ places upon each individual since He was willing to die for each one.
3. To help each one realize what he may become if he lives up to his heritage in Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. What is wrong with the attitude, "It's nobody's business what I do; I am going to live my own life"?
2. Why is it not Christian for a boy or girl to feel that he is a "nobody," and doesn't count?
3. Since we are created in the image of God, what should be our attitude toward our life purpose?

pretty or handsome face, the reflection may be very pleasing—if you look only on the surface. There is an old German proverb which says, "The eyes are the mirror of the soul." Remember that beauty is only skin deep. If we are honest with ourselves, perhaps we may see tiny marks left by lies, cutting remarks to friends, or by attempts to cheat. We can no more hide them from ourselves than we can from our Saviour, who knows our innermost thoughts. They are written on our faces.

The mirror reveals the good side of our reflection also. Honesty, thoughtfulness, clean living, courage, and pure thinking show up in our faces. A genuine love for others makes an otherwise homely face handsome.

What do we see in the mirror? We see what we were yesterday and the days before! We see whether we consider ourselves to be inferior or superior.

Now to face the new year. Let us turn to God's Word and see what He thinks of us, and what He has made it possible for us to become. Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Let us consider some of the marks toward which we may strive.

Sentence Prayers

1. Thank God for the new year in which we may live for Him.
2. Thank God that Jesus loved us enough to give His life for us on the cross.
3. Thank God for Christian Endeavor and for friends who have the same ideals as we.
4. Thank God for His Church.
5. Thank God for freedom to worship.
6. Ask God for the courage to look into the mirror and see ourselves as we really are.
7. Ask God for strength to live as we know Jesus would have us live.
8. Ask God to help us grow to be more Christ-like this next year.
9. Ask God to help us to keep our Christian Endeavor pledge.
10. Ask God to bless our minister.

From God's Word

M., Dec. 30. Your Insignificance. Ecclesiastes 1:2-4.
T., Dec. 31. Your Glory. I Corinthians 6:2, 3.
W., Jan. 1. Your Frailty. Psalm 103:13-16.
T., Jan. 2. Your Dominion. Genesis 1:26-28.
F., Jan. 3. Your Potentiality. John 1:10-13.
S., Jan. 4. Your Value. John 3:16-18.
Sun., Jan. 5. Topic—Who Do You Think You Are? Psalm 144:3, 4; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 15.

Scripture—Look in God's Mirror

Genesis 1:26-28. We are created in the image of God. He has given us the capacity to think and to reason. He has given us the ability to know right from wrong, and to choose what we want to do. Being created in His image also gives us some real responsibilities. Can you mention some of them?

John 3:16,17. God loved each one of us enough to send His Son to die for our salvation, and to show us the way to live. Do we dare say we are not important in His sight? Why not?

John 1:12. When we accept Christ as our Saviour we become sons or children of God. One of the great concerns of the members of a family is that they bring honor and not dishonor to the family name. How should we feel about wearing the name *Christian?*

II Corinthians 5:17. If we are Christians we are new creatures in Christ. He gives us new aims, new thoughts, and new desires. Can you illustrate this truth?

I Corinthians 15:57,58. Because Christ arose from the grave, conquering death, we also shall have victory over death through Him. What does this mean to you?

Romans 8:17. In this passage we are told that if we are children of God, we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, the Son of God. Could anything be more wonderful? We are adopted right into the family of God! We often hear it said, "How much that child resembles his mother or his father." Is there a family resemblance between us and our heavenly Father? The highest goal we can possibly attain is to be like God.

Genesis 1:26. God has shown His high regard for us by giving us dominion over His creation. He wants us to fully enjoy all of the earthly blessings He has prepared for us, but at the same time He expects us to be good stewards. How may we do this?

Poem

Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say:
For it isn't your father or mother or wife,
Who judgment upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Author unknown

Where Do You Think You're Going

No. 2 in a Series: "Look in the Mirror!"

Luke 14:25-33

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years) *JANUARY*

Comments by Dr. W. W. McKinney

Promoting the Meeting

Today we take a second "Look in the Mirror" to see in what direction we are going. A few road maps and travel guides placed on the wall asking "Where?"; "Will You Get There?"; "Are You on Schedule?" will help to arouse curiosity about a topic which has many interesting aspects.

Follow up last week's telephone call with a postal card to each member, briefly stating why he was missed or why his presence added to the success of last week's meeting. January is the logical month to emphasize perfect attendance in a "CU in C.E." campaign.

Suggested Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Song Service
Sentence Prayers
Consecration Hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*
Scripture: Luke 14:25-33
Poem (Use "The Ways" from "Bees in Amber" by John Oxenham, or "Where Are You Going, Greatheart?" by John Oxenham, or some other suitable poem.)
Guest Soloist or Duet
Announcements and Offering
Hymn: *I Am Happy in the Service of the King*
Leader's Message
Assigned Talks
Question Period
Hymn: *Take My Life, and Let It Be*
Closing Prayer and Benediction

Leader's Introduction of Topic

The opening of a new year is always a good time to pause and ask yourself: "Where am I going?" "What goals am I setting before myself?" "What definite progress do I expect to make this year?" Life for some people is only a ride on a merry-go-round. They are busy doing a lot of things and having a good time. They have plenty of movement but no progress. Each year finds them back at the same starting place ready for another cycle of parties, dates, excitement, the daily routine of monotonous work and rushing to meet appointments. Will 1958 be just another merry-go-round? Or will it show progress toward carefully charted goals of attainment? Are you a drifter or a plugger?

Biblical Background

Jesus recognized the folly of inadequate planning and impulsive activity in the Christian life. He was becoming popular. Great multitudes were following Him (v. 25). But they did not know where they expected to go. Like Churchill, Jesus warned them that "blood, sweat and tears" were inevitable to personal conquest and spiritual triumph. Garibaldi offered his followers hunger and death but also the freedom of their beloved Italy. Jesus set high standards of devotion and sacrifice (v. 26, 27).

AIM OF TOPIC

1. To give careful thought to your objectives in life.
2. To set definite goals that are reasonable.
3. To think of what is involved in achieving them.
4. To avoid the pitfalls of waste, idleness, and drifting.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What training and self-discipline must an athlete undergo?

What are some of the satisfactions of achievement?

Is Peter's "Ladder of Advance" (I Peter 1:5-8) practical? Would you change any of the rungs?

Are there dangers in self-satisfaction and self-confidence?

What Biblical hero would you most desire to imitate?

To emphasize the necessity for careful planning, Jesus told the parables of the Rash Builder (v. 28-30) and the Rash King (v. 31, 32). He would have us build the tower of our life with the Sermon on the Mount as our blueprint. We must count the cost of the life's journey we are to make with Christ. We must add up our resources before we volunteer to fight lesser loyalties in a supreme devotion to the King of Kings. Read slowly and devotionally the questions and answers in the hymn, *Are Ye Able, Said the Master.*

Assigned Talks—
Where Are You Going?

1. *In your life work?* What motives are guiding you in your choice of a life occupation? Every business and vocation needs young people who are committed to the Christian way of life and are eager to transform their daily occupations into a Christian vocation. All work can and must be a form of service to God and man. The same high moral standards, the same type of unselfishness, kindliness, thoughtfulness, and generosity you expect to see in your pastor, God expects to see you reveal in the profession you select as your Christian calling.

2. *In your personal development?* Have you committed yourself to Christ? He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. His program of life imparts to us the greatest satisfactions. Our only hope of daily salvation depends upon accepting His teaching and following His example. Through ... perience, we come to trust Him amid ... circumstances of life. A healthy, happ... unified personality is the result of comple... surrender to Him.

3. *In your reading habits?* Do you r... as a pleasant pastime, or with a defin... plan of increasing your knowledge a... broadening your experience? Does yo... reading program include science, histo... biography, travel, and religious thoug... Most young people spend too much ti... reading the daily newspaper and com... The classics are absolute musts on yo... reading list. We all have acquired prejudic... and narrow outlooks. We need the adv... of specialists in various fields. Biograph... of missionaries help us understand people ... a different race, religion, culture, a... nationality. Courtney Anderson's "To t... Golden Shore" is a thrilling new biograp... of Adoniram Judson.

4. *In your dating?* Because dating is t... natural prelude to marriage, young peo... should not leave this delightful experien... to the whims of chance or varying emoti... Religious leaders of all faiths advise agai... marriage between young people of diverge... races and religions. This is not because ... any attitude of bigotry or prejudice. It ... merely the reasoned judgment of wi... observation and common sense. After lo... develops, reason is liable to be overpower... by emotion. Brief and unhappy marriag... too often result from thoughtlessness ... dating.

5. *In your educational plans?* If at ... possible, a boy or girl should plan to ... to college. Unfortunately, all the bet... colleges are overcrowded and accept o... the students with the better records ... high school studies and activities. In maki... your choice of a college, consider the ma... advantages the church colleges offer in p... sonality and character development, and ... unifying the spiritual and intellectual ... titudes of young people.

6. *In your recreation?* Your leisure ti... may be an asset or a liability, a waste ... time or a rewarding blessing. We sho... plan wisely our play time. Happiness p... motes health. Recreation relieves nervo... tension, renews physical and mental energ... strengthens unused muscles and vital org... and gives release from care and anxie... Avoid the extremes of debilitating loafi... and exhausting excitement. Any recreati... that saps our vitality or degrades charact... is sinful.

For Daily Meditation

M., Jan. 6. Your Purpose. Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.
T., Jan. 7. Your Goal. I Corinthians 10:31-33.
W., Jan. 8. God's Requirements. Micah 6:6-8.
T., Jan. 9. True Religion. James 1:27; 4:1.
F., Jan. 10. Press On. Philippians 3:13-15.
S., Jan. 11. The Ladder of Advance. I Peter 1:5-8.
Sun., Jan. 12. Topic—Where Do You Think You're Going? Luke 14:25-33.

Concluding Emphasis

If a man sleeps or nods even for a sec... of time when he is at the wheel of ... automobile, the automobile may ... wrecked. If, when a plane is taking off ... landing, the pilot loses control even fo... fraction of a second, the wreck of the pla... and the death of the passengers may res... It is not otherwise with our life. A momen... carelessness, a moment's loss of self-contr... may wreck our happiness and ruin ... career.

Where Do You Think You're Going?

No. 2 in a Series: "Look in the Mirror!"

Luke 14:25-33

Intermediate (12-14 Years) *JANUARY 12*

Comments by Mrs. Aldis L. Webb

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this second meeting in the series "Look in the Mirror" is to help each member of the group think seriously about life's goals and objectives, and see that since we have been created in the image of God and He has a plan for our lives, we must seek to pattern our lives in such a way that we may achieve those objectives.

Publicity

Cut out shoe soles from 3x5 file cards. On one side letter the question, "Where do you think you are going?" and on the other side the announcement of time and place of your meeting. Hand out to all Junior High young people on Sunday morning. For a poster, make a large signpost with the question "Is your way God's way?" on the cross arms. Give time and place of meeting.

Planning the Meeting

Secure a highway map of the United States. Ask someone to prepare a talk about the need for studying the map carefully before taking a long trip, and for following the map in order to avoid bad roads and needless detours. Suggest the necessity for deciding what essentials be taken and what must be left at home, etc. The speaker should mark on the map with blue crayon the destination one might reasonably expect to reach each day by following the highway map and taking no side trips. Then, take the same trip, flipping a coin to see which way to go each day, and mark the itinerary with a red crayon. Let the lines speak for themselves.

Signposts from the Scriptures

Where do you think you are going, Adam?
Read Genesis 3:8-10.
Where do you think you are going, Jonah?
Read Jonah 1:3.
Where do you think you are going, Judas?
Read Matthew 27:3-5.
Where do you think you are going, Isaiah?
Read Isaiah 6:6-9.
Where do you think you are going, Daniel?
Read Daniel 1:8.
Where do you think you are going, Matthew?
Read Matthew 9:9.
Where do you think you are going, Peter and Andrew?
Read Mark 1:16-20.
Where do you think you are going, Paul?
Read Philippians 3:13,14; I Corinthians 2:2.

Suggested Program

Hymns: *We Thank Thee, Lord, Thy Paths of Service Lead; O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee; Follow, I Will Follow Thee.*
Leader: Our topic tonight is the second in the series, "Look in the Mirror." Last Sunday night we looked in the mirror and asked ourselves, "Just who do you think you are?" Following this self-evaluation, we looked into the mirror of God's Word to find that He considered each one of us of such importance that He sent His Son that we might have eternal life. We decided that if we were of such importance in God's sight, we did not dare take a lesser view of our lives.

Tonight we are going to take another look in the mirror, and try to find the answer to the question, "Where do you think you are going?"
Opening Prayer (society president)
Map Talk
Scripture: Luke 14:25-33.
Discussion and Questions
Daily Readings
Summary by Sponsor
Closing Hymn: *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*
Sentence Prayers
Announcements and Offering
Benediction

Poem, DRIFTING

The days pass along as if never to end,
But the evenings are filled with delight,
For a smile on the lips of the gay dancing girl,
Brings a joy mid the dazzle of night.
So we drift and forget all the science we know
And the things that we ought to have done,
Till the charms of the fireside and love for the home
Are all killed by the frivolous fun.
Yes, it's easy to drift with the flow of the tide
And the will of the winds in their play,
But it's hard to admit at the end of the night
That we've nothing to show for the day.
—Tom Sawyer

For the Leader

The story is told of a little old lady who was very nervous and excited as she prepared to board an express train at a busy station, and would not be at rest until the conductor, after examining her ticket, assured her that she was on the right train. She said, "It makes a big difference which train I get on. I might wake up in the morning in New York or Philadelphia, instead of Chicago."

Give in your own words the meaning of the following lines by Alfred Tennyson:

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound,
But we build a ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit, round by round."

Secure a copy of *In His Steps* by Charles M. Sheldon. Give a brief outline of the story. What was the difference in the life goal of the main characters before and after their decision was made on that Sunday morning?

Recall the story of the Hare and the Tortoise. How does it apply to our topic tonight?

Secure at the library a youth's edition of *Pilgrim's Progress.* What were some of Pilgrim's experiences along the road?

Did you ever hear someone say, "I'm going around in circles"? It usually means that the person is involved in too many things—that he has so much to do that he cannot accomplish anything. Why is it better to do a few things well than to half-do many things?

QUESTIONS

1. How will keeping the Christian Endeavor Pledge keep us on the highway toward our goal? Be specific.
2. How does believing that Jesus came into the world for a definite purpose—to die on the cross to save us from our sins—help us in forming a goal for our lives?
3. How does belonging to the church, which the Bible assures us will be triumphant in the end, influence us in establishing our objectives?

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Verse 25. This was on the occasion of Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem. The multitudes were probably people going to the Passover who moved along in groups and who fell in with the Lord.

Verse 26. The word "hate" here does not mean hate in the sense that we think of it, but to "love less." Jesus claims first place in our affections, even over our nearest relatives.

Verse 27. We are to be prepared, and must expect, to face trials for Christ's sake.

Verses 28-30. Common sense teaches us not to start any costly work without first seeing where we will be able to secure the wherewithal to finish it.

Verses 31, 32. A wise ruler will not enter into war with another power without first seeing to it that he is able to stand his ground.

Verse 33. Likewise, we must not consider lightly the strength of our enemy. But, if we surrender our lives completely to the Lord, He will give us the victory. Discipleship demands that our first allegiance be given to Christ.

Summary

The summary or evaluation at the close of the meeting should emphasize the importance of giving creative thought to life's objectives early in life, the wastefulness and danger of drifting along without a sense of mission, and the necessity of giving full allegiance to Christ and His Church if we achieve the greatest happiness in this world and in the world to come. We all want to hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into joy of thy Lord."

From the Book of Books

M., Jan. 6. Your Purpose. Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.
T., Jan. 7. Your Goal. I Corinthians 10:31-33.
W., Jan. 8. God's Requirements. Micah 6:6-8.
T., Jan. 9. True Religion. James 1:27; 4:1.
F., Jan. 10. Press On. Philippians 3:13-15.
S., Jan. 11. The Ladder of Advance. I Peter 1:5-8.
Sun., Jan. 12. Topic—Where Do You Think You're Going? Luke 14:25-33.

Who Do You Think Will Help You?

No. 3 in a Series: "Look in the Mirror!"

Psalm 46:1; Psalm 60:11; Hebrews 4:16

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years) *JANUARY 19*

Comments by Dr. W. W. McKinney

Promoting the Meeting

Make this a testimony meeting. The help of God must be experienced. It cannot be measured or proven by any laboratory test that we can devise. Invite to the meeting some older Christians who have felt God's power in some special way in the time of sorrow or misfortune, or who have been strengthened by God to conquer personal sins or who have felt God's leadership in service to others. Their testimony is more convincing than any discussion of a possible know how.

Be careful in your selection of those whom you invite to testify. They should be popular with young people and have an appreciation of the problems of youth. Ask them to keep their testimonies short and to the point. Perhaps your pastor also would like to bring a closing message from his pastoral experience.

Suggested Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship
Invocation Hymn: *Come, Thou Almighty King*
Quotations from the Bible
Sentence Prayers
Hymn: *Living for Jesus*
Announcements and Offering
Leader's Opening Remarks
Personal Testimonies
Discussion of Theme
Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*
Closing Prayer and Benediction

Leader's Introduction of Topic

In our meeting today we shall take a third and concluding "Look in the Mirror." We seek to discover how we hope to achieve the goals we individually set before ourselves last week. Begin the meeting with a quick review of the two previous discussions in this series. Since we are divinely endowed individuals whom God loves, we have a right to expect God to help us reach the goals He has inspired us to attain. Summarize the main points in last week's discussion of goals and objectives.

To achieve these goals we need help. One thing is certain, we cannot reach our destination in our own strength alone. The Bible warns us: "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12). "Without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Faded hopes, scarred dreams, and vanished purposes are all too frequent evidence of the folly of attempting to journey in one's own strength.

Many an eager convert has fallen by the wayside and his name has been added to the suspended roll of the church. That which was boldly launched in high hope has often been submerged in tears of disappointment. Bitter disillusionment is the tragedy of worshipping at the altar of self-sufficiency.

At this point we can learn a lesson from Alcoholics Anonymous which lists as the first and second steps in reform: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." That Power, that personal God who loves us, can and will help us. We need not be alone. God is our helper. We must believe and trust Him. He never fails. He will not let us fail. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). So can you and I. How can God help us?

AIM OF TOPIC

1. To help young people become more aware of the power and resources of God in daily life.
2. To encourage them to use these resources regularly.
3. To suggest a practical program for daily use of God's power in developing a life in harmony with His will.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

How do you interpret Jesus' third temptation (Luke 4:9-12)?

In what ways do we expect God to obey us?

If God does not give an affirmative answer to our prayers, does that prove He will not help us?

Why is a daily Quiet Hour important?

How does association with other Christians in worship and service help to strengthen us?

God Helps Through Human Means

He works through our parents, our Sunday school teachers, our Christian Endeavor leaders and associates, our friends, our pastor. Their advice, assistance, example, and service are essential to our encouragement and success. Good coaching wins basketball games. Skilled teaching develops scholars and artists in all realms. Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus but he needed the courageous help of Ananias before his eyes could be opened to spiritual truth.

Later, when Paul was hard-pressed in his ministry in Macedonia and somewhat discouraged, he could testify: "God comforteth me by the coming of Titus" (II Corinthians 7:6). Talk over your problems with your pastor and other Christian friends. Through them God may speak His word of guidance and encouragement which may redirect your spiritual energies and guide you to success.

Messages from the Bible

M., Jan. 13. Christ Needed. John 15:4, 5.
T., Jan. 14. Paul's Power. Philippians 4:12, 13.
W., Jan. 15. Trust God. I Peter 5:6, 7.
T., Jan. 16. Your Assurance. II Timothy 1:12, 13.
F., Jan. 17. Freedom from Fear. Isaiah 41:10-13.
S., Jan. 18. Be Strong. Joshua 1:7-9.
Sun., Jan. 19. Topic—Who Do You Think Will Help You? Psalm 46:1; Psalm 60:11; Hebrews 4:16.

God Helps Through Prayer

Prayer brings us into direct fellowship with God. We gain new confidence as we become aware again of His power and of His willingness to strengthen us. Prayer clarifies our spiritual vision and enables us to see things in perspective. In prayer God gives us a clearer understanding of His will in our lives. He banishes our prejudices, stills our fears, and arouses our courage and determination.

"God is our refuge and our strength," testifies the psalmist (46:1). God will not make smooth the rough places of life. Nor will He shield us from the difficult and trying experiences of daily activity. He knows that rough places bring out the best in us and force us to trust Him who can make "all things work together for good to them that love Him."

Prayer for the Christian is not an easy way of shifting burdens upon God. Nor is it a magical means of receiving uncaused and unmerited blessings. Prayer is a divinely directed current for the recharging of our exhausted spiritual batteries. It is a fountain of refreshment when we are wearied by the heat and burden of the day. It is an inspiring conference with the Captain of our Salvation who renews our faith and gives us a new vision of success.

Difficult and heart-testing experiences are certain to arise in the life of each of us. What a precious privilege to come to God in prayer. After a little talk with Him, the clouds of sorrow seem lifted. The burden of grief and loneliness appears easier to bear. The pathway of duty is revealed more clearly. All life wears a rosier hue when daily duties are faced in His strength. On the other hand, hours of joy and success may be dangerous unless we share our triumphs with God and heed His warning against the pitfalls of pride and self-confidence.

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

Every promise of God is conditional upon our willingness to do our part. God never puts us into a wheelbarrow to push us forward to achievement. Nor does He give us a free ticket on a jet plane. He expects us to obey His laws of health if we are to be healthy in body, mind, and soul. He insists that we use the good sense He has given us in avoiding unnecessary exposure to disease and danger.

God is our Master and not our Servant. Along the prayer-directed pathway of obedience, we gain strength sufficient for the task He sets before us. We experience a wisdom greater than our own as we seek to solve daily problems and perplexities. We manifest a courage beyond our own sturdiness of heart. Thus we learn by experience the certainty of His promise "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9).

Who Do You Think Will Help You?

No. 3 in a Series: "Look in the Mirror!"

Psalm 46:1; Psalm 60:11; Hebrews 4:16

Intermediate (12-14 Years) *JANUARY 19*

Comments by Mrs. Aldis L. Webb

Aim of the Meeting

To help us become aware of the resources and power of God, and that it is available to every Christian for the taking.

Planning the Meeting

Make assignments well in advance of the meeting, and check the last of the week to be sure no one has forgotten. See that there are Bibles for looking up *God's Conditional Promises.* This is an important part of the meeting. Secure Quiet Hour blanks for any who might want to become Comrades of the Quiet Hour. Be sure to have the meeting announced in the Junior High Department on Sunday morning. You might do this by having someone carry a large mirror into the room with the wording of the topic written on it with poster paint, announcing that this is the *final look* in the series. Be much in prayer for this important meeting, and remember He said, "Lo, I am with you always."

Suggested Program

Hymns: *He Leadeth Me; O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee; Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Leader:

"When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way.
While we do His good will
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey."

Introduction of topic (This should give briefly the outline of the first two lessons in the series, *Look in the Mirror,* and stress the importance of this last lesson in the series.)

Scripture: Psalm 46:1; Psalm 60:11; Hebrews 4:16 (Urge memorization of these verses.)

Prayer time: (Ask the boys and girls to thank God for the lessons we have learned as we have looked in the mirror these past two weeks: that we have been created in the image of God; that God has a purpose for our lives here; that we have a destiny to live forever with God; and for Jesus who will guide us and go with us every day every step of the way. Then ask God that we may strive earnestly to fulfill His purpose for our lives, and that we may walk and talk with Him each day, and learn to trust Him more and more.)

Leader: When we were small we did not go places without Mother or Dad, or some older person. A little later, when we started to school, we walked with a close friend or with several friends. In pre-school days we went to our parents with our problems, later to our school teacher, our Sunday school teacher, or to our minister. These have all been wonderful friends, and have helped meet our needs.

Now that we are teen-agers, our problems are more complex, and we have to make decisions for ourselves. Our friends can help with some of our problems, but more and more there are times when only God can give us the help we need. We are going to see in our discussion tonight how willing God is to help us, and how we may receive His help.

CHRIST HELPS US

When we face temptation . . .
Read I Corinthians 10:13

When we are worried . . . . .
Read Matthew 6:25-33

When we lack wisdom . . . .
Read James 1:5

When we are afraid . . . . .
Read Matthew 14:27

When we are weak . . . . .
Read II Corinthians 12:9

When we are mocked . . . . .
Read Matthew 5:10,11

God's Conditional Promises

Life Stories

How the Quiet Hour Helps

Reports on Daily Readings and Poems

Hymn: *I Need Jesus,* or *Jesus Never Fails* (Read verses in concert, singing chorus softly).

Sentence Prayers and Benediction

God's Conditional Promises

God, our heavenly Father, gives us many precious promises in His Word, and we may trust these promises *without fail,* because they rest upon the very character of our God. God is Truth; therefore, He will not deceive us. God is Love; therefore, He will not forget His Word. God is timeless—the same yesterday, today, and forever; therefore, it is impossible for Him to change. God is all-powerful; therefore, He is able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think.

But almost all of God's promises are conditional; *we* must meet certain conditions *before* God can give us the blessings. Let us study some of these promises:

Our Part	*God's Part*
Call upon me, and	Jeremiah 33:3
Trust in the Lord	Proverbs 3:5,6
Seek ye first the	Matthew 6:33
Come unto Me, all ye	Matthew 11:28
Take My yoke	Matthew 11:29
Draw nigh to God and	James 4:8
Resist the devil and	James 4:7b
Ask, and it shall be	Matthew 7:7
Seek, and ye shall	Matthew 7:7
Knock, and it shall be	Matthew 7:7
Ye are my friends if	John 15:14
If we confess our sins	I John 1:9
But if we walk in	I John 1:7
Be thou faithful unto	Revelation 2:10b

Scripture Positions

M., Jan. 13. Christ Needed. John 15:4, 5.

T., Jan. 14. Paul's Power. Philippians 4:12, 13.

W., Jan. 15. Trust God. I Peter 5:6, 7.

T., Jan. 16. Your Assurance. II Timothy 1:12, 13.

F., Jan. 17. Freedom from Fear. Isaiah 41:10-13.

S., Jan. 18. Be Strong. Joshua 1:7-9.

Sun., Jan. 19. Topic—Who Do You Think Will Help You? Psalm 46:1; Psalm 60:11; Hebrews 4:16.

Stories from Life

When Robert Morrison, the first Protestant misssionary to China, was on the ship on his way out, the ship owner, who was very much amused at the thought of any man's going to China on such an errand, asked, "And so, Mr. Morrison, you really expect you will make an impression on the idolatry of the great Chinese empire?" Morrison's answer was, "No, sir, but I expect God will." God gives us the strength for the work He asks us to do.

A number of years ago, in occupied China, Christians began singing and a hymn, "Unafraid" was born. They sang:

I will not be afraid,
I will look upward and travel onward,
And not be afraid.

He says He will be with me
He goes before me and is beside me,
So I'm not afraid.

His arms are underneath me,
His hand upholds me, His love enfolds me,
So I'm not afraid.

His Word will stand forever,
His truth it shall be my shield and buckler,
So I'm not afraid.

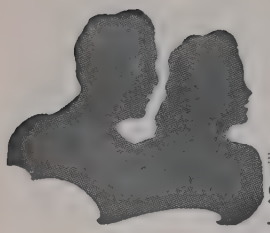
(From April 1941 *Presbyterian Survey*)

An old colored lady once said that since Christ came into her heart she sent Him to answer the door when Satan knocked. When Satan asked, "Where's dat old sinner?" Christ answered, "She doesn't live here any more. I live here now." Then Satan went on his way. Christ and Satan can't live in the same heart at the same time.

Henry Drummond, in an address on "The Changed Life," tells an incident which gives the secret of the victorious Christian life of a young girl. Her beautiful Christian character was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. One day, in a moment of unusual confidence, she allowed one of her friends to touch the spring of her locket and learn her secret. The friend saw written there the words: "Whom having not seen, I love." Jesus was her closest companion, and He made her life beautiful.

How the Quiet Hour Helps

One reason that Christian Endeavor has been the strong spiritual force that it has been in the lives of young people the world over is its emphasis upon the keeping of the Quiet Hour. We would never be able to live up to our Christian ideals in our own strength. God doesn't expect us to. Jesus plainly told us: "Apart from Me ye can do nothing." In these days of furious living we desperately need a period of quiet each day when we remember God and His wonderful promises to us, His children. We dare not start the day without asking His guidance and for strength to live for Him. A wonderful verse, Isaiah 30:15, says, *"In quietness shall be your strength."*



Lord, I Believe

No. 1 in a Series: "Christian Endeavor Week—Youth Week"

Mark 9:24

(Denominational Sunday—Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years) *JANUARY 26*

*Comments by David Schattschneider**

Aim of the Meeting

1. To see why beliefs are necessary.
2. To see what beliefs Christians should have.
3. To see how these beliefs may affect others.

Helps for the Leader

1. Ask your pastor or advisor if he will explain in some detail the Christian beliefs mentioned below.
2. Have members of your group ready to read the Scripture references at the bottom of the page at the point stated in the suggested program outline. Then be ready to use these references to add to the discussion of the topic.
3. Ask your pastor to tell about the Christian doctrines he stresses in his confirmation class or class for prospective church members.

Topic Presentation

When you read the title of this discussion, *Lord, I Believe*, several questions will undoubtedly come into your mind. If we are at all inquisitive young people we might ask, "Why should we believe anything?" or "What should Christians believe?" or "How will we show others what we believe?"

From our own personal experiences and from observing those around us, we can see that nearly everyone believes in something. We have seen young people in school and at work who have the belief that the possession of a large sum of money will bring them happiness. There are those too who firmly believe that wearing the most expensive clothes and driving a flashy car is the answer to their longing for happiness. Christians know that their belief in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and living in accordance with God's will will bring them happiness.

In each of these cases mentioned, people have different beliefs in an attempt to satisfy their longings for happiness. That is the crux of the matter, if we will but recognize it. Every human being has within himself a longing for peace and happiness and every human being tries in his own way to satisfy this longing. That is why we all believe in something. Some believe their happiness lies in material things, or in satisfying their personal desires. The Christian believes differently—he believes his peace and happiness lie in finding God's purpose for his life and then carrying it out.

Time for Decision

As young people we have reached the age where we have to make the final decision. Up to this time our parents, Sunday school teachers, and others concerned with our up-bringing have told us pretty much what was right and wrong and have aided us in making our decisions. But, as our parents probably realize, and as we must realize also, we ourselves have to start making some decisions in regard to what we believe. It would be very nice to continue, "floating down the river," while making no important decisions—but pretty soon we'll be on our own and we had better have our beliefs set. We can't live in a vacuum. Just what do we Christians believe anyhow?

First of all, we have to realize that the Christian Church has had its beliefs or creeds for a long time, for many centuries in fact. The Church expects its members to have these beliefs too. But only when these beliefs are a living part of our own faith can we say that we are truthfully striving to be good Christians.

Fundamental Beliefs

Perhaps the first great fundamental belief we must have is our belief in God. We think of God as the Creator of the earth and, if we think more seriously about it, we will realize that the earth we live on is not ours—as we like to think it is—but we are merely tenants. Another way to think of God is as a ruler. God is the ruler over nature and He has a plan for nature, just as He has a plan for our individual lives. Lastly, we believe in God as a loving Father who bestows upon us the love of a perfect father. So we Christians believe that God has created us and the earth on which we live. We believe that He has a plan for our lives, and that in His perfect love for us He wants us to carry out this plan.

A second basic Christian belief is the belief in Jesus Christ. We believe He lived on earth and was a notable historical figure. More than that, we believe that He is the Son of God. God revealed His nature by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live among ordinary people like ourselves. As Christians we can also say that we believe in the forgiveness of sins—that we believe Christ died on the cross to save us from our sins. This belief is the heart of the Christian message.

We also confess our belief in the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of God who comes into our lives and gives us the strength we need to resist temptation and live a more Christ-like life.

We believe in the church as the place where we may find fellow Christians and worship with them. The church is not only a meeting place, however, but the church has a spiritual nature. Since it is Christ's Church it is a divine institution.

Lastly, as Christians we have the promise of life everlasting, of eternal life. This is a concept which it is impossible for us as mere mortals to fully grasp.

Closing Challenge

We've thought about many basic truths in this topic. It's not enough merely to consider these and agree that this is what we believe. These thoughts serve as a challenge to each of us to re-examine his spiritual life to see if he truly lives up to what he professes to believe. If he does accept these Christian beliefs, his mind will be open to receive God's guidance and he will be able to apply God's plans to his life.

By doing so his very life will give testimony to the fact that he is a true child of God. An old prayer hymn verse puts it this way:

"May it in our walk be seen,
That we have with Jesus been,
That as King o'er us He reigns,
And unrivaled sway maintains."

Suggested Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude: *This Is My Father's World*
Opening Hymn: *I Am Thine, O Lord*
Scripture: Bible readings listed at the bottom of this page
Prayer
Announcements
Offertory Hymn: *Now in the Days of Youth*
Offertory Prayer
Discussion of Topic
Question and Answer Period
Closing Hymn: *Take My Life, and Let It Be*
Silent Meditation

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you think it is possible for a person to be happy without any definite spiritual beliefs?

2. What other beliefs should a Christian have in addition to those mentioned?

3. List several ways in which a Christian can witness to those he comes in contact with at home, in school, and on the job.

4. Think of ways a Christian may witness unconsciously to those about him.

Bible Meditations

M., Jan. 20. Promise to Seekers. Matthew 7:7, 8.
T., Jan. 21. Reasoning with God. Isaiah 1:16-19.
W., Jan. 22. Remember Now. Ecclesiastes 12:1-4.
T., Jan. 23. You Can Help Others. Romans 10:13-17.
F., Jan. 24. The Purpose of the Bible. John 20:30, 31.
S., Jan. 25. The Work of the Spirit. John 16:13-15.
Sun., Jan. 26. Topic—Lord, I Believe. Mark 9:24. (Denominational Sunday — Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from YOUTH HYMNS, published by the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

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Lord, I Believe

No. 1 in a Series: "Christian Endeavor Week—Youth Week"

Mark 9:24

(Denominational Sunday—Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

ermediate (12-14 Years) *JANUARY 26*

*Comments by Frances M. Becker**

hy Do People Believe?

So as far back as you can in the history mankind and you will find the majority people believing in something. The man o thinks has always recognized that his lities, though great and powerful and ensive, are limited. Beyond that limit is ar greater power which man acknowl-es, in which he places his confidence, in ich he believes. This belief gives him the lity to face the everyday tasks and blems of life with greater assurance and ngth.

So frequently, though, in the past as ll as the present, men in their search for ace and security placed their belief in ages, idols, false gods. We need but nk of the gods of the Greeks, the Romans, Germanic tribes—Zeus, Athena, Diana, piter, Thor, and Wotan—to see how far ld men went in their search for divine dance. They even placed an altar "to unknown god" on one of their street ners in Athens, so that any gods whom people might have forgotten would not angry.

But, you say, these gods have taken their htful place in mythology. We no longer lieve in idols today, and yet men are l seeking for security and peace. Some nk money will buy it and their life be-nes dedicated to the making of money. ne think power will gain it, so they build pires, crush people, and reap un-ppiness. Some believe fame will raise m to heights of satisfaction only to find pths of loneliness and grief.

hat Does the Christian Believe?

Isn't it wonderful that the Christian esn't have to worry about worshipping nids, spirits, idols, gods, power, or money. ry clearly in God's Word the belief of a ristian is stated. The Philippian jailor o was going to kill himself because God d caused an earthquake to open the son doors and set the prisoners free, cried to Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do be saved?" And they said, "Believe on Lord, Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be ved" (Acts 16:30,31).

John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the rld, that He gave His only begotten Son, t whosoever believeth in Him should perish, but have everlasting life," and Timothy 1:12 says, "I know whom I ve believed, and am persuaded that He able to keep that which I have com-tted unto Him against that day." A ristian believes that Jesus Christ is the n of God who came to earth to take upon mself the sins of man. Having been cified, therefore, for our sins, He has de it possible for those who believe on m to go through life having the guidance of the Holy Ghost to call upon and having the promise of eternal life after death.

Miss Becker is director of the high school department of the Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor Union and is an elementary school principal in Philadelphia.

OUR AIMS

1. To encourage young people to take a stand for Christ.
2. To encourage young people to learn what it means to be a Christian.
3. To invite young people to join the Comrades of the Quiet Hour.
4. To help young people dare to be different as Christians.
5. To learn more about our denominational beliefs.

How Can You Strengthen Your Belief?

Having accepted Jesus as your Saviour makes it necessary for you to grow in Christian stature. You should be drawn closer to God by becoming familiar with His Word and speaking with Him in prayer. Daily prayer and reading of the Bible is the promise which Christian Endeavor members of the Quiet Hour make in an effort to know better God's plan for their lives. So often we as Christians feel foolish because we miss an opportunity to speak to someone who wants to know Jesus and we do not know enough of God's word to present a positive testimony. Strengthen your belief by daily prayer and Bible reading.

Does Your Belief Show?

The story is told by W. L. Lingle, in *Moody Monthly*, of a new minister who preached his first sermon on Christian living. After the service many people thanked him for his message and said how much it was needed. The following Sunday the young minister preached the same sermon and much to the amazement of the congregation he preached the same sermon the third Sunday. When the session of the church questioned his motive, he said, "You told me that my message from God's Word was needed in this church and yet all week I watched for a change in your lives and there was none. So I preached it again. I watched all the next week; still no change; and I don't see any yet. Don't you think I'd better prepare to preach it again next Sunday?"

Do other people know by looking at you, by hearing you, by watching you live from day to day that you believe in Jesus Christ? Your life should be different from the lives of those who have not yet accepted Him because a Christian patterns his life after the only perfect life, Jesus Christ. If there hasn't been a change in your life, you'd better take inventory of those things which are displeasing to God or missing from your life and by Bible reading and prayer ask God to empty your life of sin and fill it with His spirit.

It takes courage to be different from the world but "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do." Dare to let your belief show.

From the Bible

M., Jan. 20. Promise to Seekers. Matthew 7:7, 8.
T., Jan. 21. Reasoning with God. Isaiah 1:16-19.
W., Jan. 22. Remember Now. Ecclesiastes 12:1-4.
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Involve Your Young People In the Meeting

1. Make a list of all the false gods that your young people can name which people have worshiped. Can you name some of the tragedies that have befallen these people?
2. Find the word "believe" in your Bible concordance and have your young people look up the references given.
3. Write the "Apostles' Creed" on the blackboard and suggest memorizing it.
4. Secure "Comrade of the Quiet Hour" cards for 25c a dozen from the International Society of Christian Endeavor. Discuss the purpose of Comrades of the Quiet Hour and encourage your young people to enroll.
5. Discuss ways in which a Christian's life should differ from that of a non-Christian.
6. Sing appropriate hymns: *I Would Be Like Jesus, I Would Be True, I Surrender All, Trust and Obey.*
7. Invite your minister to discuss with you the beliefs of your denomination.
8. Sing chorus:

"Lord, I believe,
Lord, I believe,
Lord, I believe,
Lord, I believe,
I believe Christ died for me."

Closing Illustrations

In one of the darkest hours of the Reformation, Martin Luther was on the point of sinking down into despair. One evening, while standing at the open window of his study, he gazed upon a scene of nature which braced him. It was the spectacle of the sky filled with countless twinkling stars dazzling him with their beauty and number. He wondered how those shining worlds could be supported in the vast arches of heaven. A sense of God's power came over him. "Certainly," said the great reformer, "a God who can uphold the heavens can and will support His church." Yes, God can and will support us as we trust His power and wisdom and go forward in his strength.

The story is told that General Sherman was once riding through a forest when he came to a clearing and saw an old Negro mammy standing in the doorway of her cabin. Sherman called out, "Hello, Mammy! All alone?" The old Negro, with a radiance all over her face, replied, "Jes' me an' Jesus, Massa!" The old Negro lady recognized the presence of her Divine Companion in her lonely cabin. He is present in our lives, too. He is with us always, everywhere, eager for our companionship. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Are They Essential?

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 3)

A word on the response to the Roll-call given by each Active member at this meeting. Too often I fear it is thought that any verse of Scripture or hymn will do, and no effort is made to find one which expresses one's personal experience of God's grace or our hopes for living closer to Him in the days ahead. Always remember that in the act of Consecration we are, as it were, laying ourselves afresh on the altar so that the Lord might fill us anew with His mighty power. If we hastily look for our response during the meeting, it shows that we have not understood the full purpose of this special service.

This is also the occasion when new members are received and in some Societies they first of all give their testimony. I commend this practice.

Committee Work

4. Last but not least the fourth essential is COMMITTEE WORK. It has been said that the best committee is a committee consisting of one person! Some Conveners seem to agree with that for they never set their committee to work properly but try to do it all themselves!! That is not Christian Endeavor—how shall they be trained if they never get the opportunity? Much as some of us feel we would like to have fewer committees to attend (I do not think this applies to our younger members), we recognize that the work of the Church can only be satisfactorily carried on by this method. Part of the genius of Christian Endeavor lies in the practical training provided by the various committees.

Yet I believe it is true to say that we are falling down on this essential more than any of the others. And if we are, the blame lies largely on the shoulders of the Office-bearers and Executive Committee. The Executive should be a model committee in itself and by insisting upon satisfactory reports from Conveners can almost ensure the efficient working of the whole Society. Christian Endeavor should stand for Christian Efficiency.

The aim of the Committee work is to turn out church workers who will be businesslike and purposeful when dealing with the King's Business. Too often second best is considered good enough in the Lord's work. Francis Clark recognized that this was wrong and so provided the means to remedy all the situation. Let us make the most of such a valuable means of training the future Deacons, Elders, Managers and Organizational Committee Members of our Churches and Missions.

If time is the problem (and we do recognize that "loyalty to our own Church" makes demands other than purely Christian Endeavor ones upon us), it would be worthwhile holding a shortened meeting once a quarter and giving the rest of the time over to Meetings of the various Committees.

Are they essential? Decidely YES! As you read this the winter session will just be beginning—will you resolve that your Society is going to be a real Christian Endeavor ciety? Even in the best Society there almost certain to be room for improveme Some Ministers and Churches are doub as to whether Christian Endeavor is just thing for their young people. We know nothing better, so let us set out to prov by our adherence to the four essentials—

THE COVENANT

THE WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL MEE ING

THE MONTHLY CONSECRATI MEETING

COMMITTEE WORK—

and God bless you in the doing of

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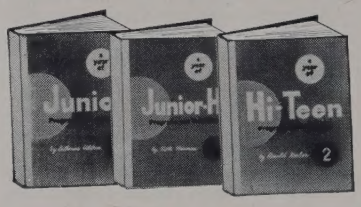

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